A NEW SPECIES OF DISCOCORIS FROM COLOMBIA

(HEMIPTERA, THAUMASTOCORIDAE)

James A. Slater¹ and Peter D. Ashlock²

The genus Discocoris was established by Kormilev in 1955 for Discocoris rianai Kormilev from Argentina. Kormilev considered the genus as representative of a new subfamily in the family Thaumastocoridae, but Drake & Slater (1957) placed it in the subfamily Xylastodorinae Barber. This subfamily is confined in distribution to the Western Hemisphere and to the present time has contained only two species, the above mentioned Discocoris vianai Kormilev from Argentina and Xylastodoris lutcolus Barber from Cuba and Florida. It is therefore of much interest to be able to report an additional species of Discocoris from northern South America. Although known from a single specimen the zoogeographic importance of the record and the apparent specific distinctions of the Colombian specimen has prompted us to describe the species formally at this time.

Discocoris drakei, new species (Fig. 1)

Coloration nearly uniform light testaceous, basal angles of scutellum brown, eyes bright red, explanate pronotal and corial margins translucent; dorsal surface bearing small, shallow, inconspicuous rather evenly spaced setigerous punctures, surface otherwise glabrous.

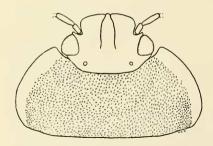
Head broad, non-declivent, juga strongly arcuate, inner margin rather sinuate, juga and tylus extending forward an equal distance, the latter narrowing anteriorly, spine at anterior angle of eye short, but acute, extending only half way to apex of first antennal segment, length head .48 mm., width across eyes .71 mm., interocular space .45 mm.; pronotum with anterior margin very deeply and sinuately concave, the antero-lateral angles produced forward to center of lateral margin of eye, lateral pronotal margins broadly, smoothly and evenly rounded, posterior margin straight adjacent to scutellum, beyond becoming somewhat irregular and curving slightly antero-latered to humeri, median length pronotum .52 mm., maximum length .70 mm., maximum width 1.40 mm.; length scutellum .55 mm., width .65 mm.; hemelytra with clavus slightly narrowing posteriorly, claval commissure present, corium moderately convex, lateral margins strongly explanate and broadly arcuate, considerably exceeding apex of abdomen, distance apex clavus apex corium 1.00 mm.; femora very slightly enlarged, mutic; apex of labium obscured, apparently at least attaining or nearly attaining mesocoxae; length antennal segments I, .08 mm., II, .14 mm., HII-IV-missing. Total length 2.60 mm.

Holotype.—Female, Buenaventura, Colombia, V-10-1951, E. S. Ross, Collector. Deposited in California Academy of Sciences.

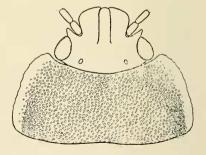
¹Dept. Zoology & Entomology, University of Connecticut, Storrs. ²Entomology Research Division, A.R.S., U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

We take pleasure in dedicating this species to Professor C. J. Drake for his many contributions to our knowledge of the Heteroptera.

D. drakci is very closely related to the type species vianai (Fig. 2), agreeing in all respects with the generic diagnosis and differing little in general size and habitus. The two species may be separated by means of the following couplet:



I. DRAKEI, n. sp.



2. VIANAI Korm.

Figs. 1 and 2. Head and thorax of Discocoris spp.

LITERATURE CITED

Drake, C. J. & J. A. Slater, 1957. The phylogeny and systematics of the family Thaumastocoridae (Hemiptera: Heteroptera). Ann. Ent. Soc. Amer. 50: 353-370.

Kormilev, N. A., 1955. Una curiosa familia de Hemipteros nueva para la fauna Argentina, Thaumastotheriidae (Kirkaldy), 1907. Rev. Soc. Ent. Argentina 18:5-10.